

# Sansevieria 'Doris Pfennig'

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This very attractive crossing of *Sansevieria pinguicula* x *phillipsiae* was made by the late Horst Pfennig of Herford-Stedefreund, Germany. The circumstances are best explained in his own words: "Knowing the conditions of the site, it is understandable that *Sansevieria pinguicula* will hardly develop an inflorescence in our latitude. Only after 14 years in cultivation was the species able to develop an - until now single - inflorescence for the author. Interestingly, the flowers did not take the own pollen of *S. pinguicula* - an observation only made until now with a probable natural hybrid. On the other hand, the pollen of a *S. phillipsiae* that was accidentally flowering readily lead to fruition. One should look forward with excitement to the habit and inflorescence of the hybrid (resulting) from the sprouting seeds."

Indeed the resulting hybrid has proven to be quite beautiful. However, no record has transcended as to how many seeds were produced and/or if these seeds produced hybrids that were different. To the best of my knowledge only one hybrid has survived and it is



Fig. 1 *Sansevieria* 'Doris Pfennig', an artificial hybrid made by H. Pfennig of *Sansevieria pinguicula* x *S. phillipsiae*.

the one presented here.

This sansevieria is stemless having rhizomes as well and stolons, which are strong reminders of its parent plants. The leaves are 4 - 8 to a growth, 25 - 30 cm long, 12 - 19 mm wide at the base, 15 - 20 mm thick. Leaves grow in all directions, are quite rigid, not flexible at all and curve back, sometimes twisting sideways. Dark green, without any cross-banding or mottling at any stage of growth, smooth with waxy texture. Leaves narrow gradually up to a spiny withered tip to more than 25 mm long. A deep acute

<sup>1</sup> Pfennig, H. (1980) *Sansevieria pinguicula* Bally, *Kakteen u. andere Sukkulente*, 31:207. translated from the German by the author.



Fig. 2 Inflorescence of *S.* 'Doris Pfennig', showing the sparse branching and small brownish flowers.

Fig. 3 Several growths of *S.* 'Doris Pfennig' depicting their sculptural character.



channel on the adaxial side of the leaf runs all the way to the tip, gradually narrowing to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the width of the leaf. The channel has a very thin reddish edge, which is bordered by more prominent withered fibres that contrast beautifully with the dark green colour of the leaves. There is typically one impressed continuous longitudinal line on either side of the leaf.

Inflorescence a short panicle, with few branches, 148 mm long, out of which 46 mm without any flower; diameter at base 8 mm, at mid-height 4 mm, green colour, spacing of clusters ca. 8 mm, 3 sterile bracts, 4 - 6 mm long, 7 - 10 mm wide, withered, no fertile bracts observed. Flowers with a brownish cast, in clusters of 3 - 4, mostly 4, tube length 7 mm, diameter 1.5 mm, inflated at base to 2 mm, length of lobes 11 mm, width 1.5 mm, colour brownish; pedicel length 1.5 mm with an articulation in the middle, pistil length 22 mm, exceeding the stamens by 2 mm; filament length 13 mm, anther length 1.5 mm.

The small panicle and the small flowers are reminiscent of those of the "mother plant" *Sansevieria pinguicula*, however the panicle is not as branched.

Though freely flowering, this new sansevieria does not appear to fruit readily.

The name of this sansevieria is dedicated to the plant creator's wife, Mrs. Doris Pfennig.

This is a very beautiful hybrid and clearly a welcomed addition to this amazing genus.